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November 16, 2020: Letter from the President- Covid-19 Update

Kettering University

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Nov. 16, 2020

To the Kettering Community,

There is nothing more important than your health, and that of those around you. We understand that you are weary of the restrictions placed upon your lives by COVID. We all are. However, the number of people contracting this disease is growing quickly, and catching it will be deadly for some. Please keep wearing your mask, keep appropriate distance in social situations, and first and foremost care for yourself and those around you.

Last night, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), issued a **new emergency order** that enacts a three-week pause on various types of gatherings within the State of Michigan.

The order, which takes effect at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18, is not a stay-home action like the one imposed this past Spring. But it does include specific language directed at universities, requiring them to suspend in-person classes as well as most extracurricular activities during the next three weeks. It limits indoor and outdoor gathering sizes, as well as places a number of conditions on the use of certain facilities on our campus, such as gymnasiums and dining facilities. It does NOT, however, require universities to cease operations or to require students to leave the University.

Below are important updates of what the University will do to be in compliance with the order effective this Wednesday:

- **Campus will remain open and operational.**
- There are no changes at this time to the Fall Term schedule.
- All classes will be virtual through Dec. 8. All face-to-face delivery of classes will be suspended.
- Any on-campus events during this time will need to be postponed or held virtually, including all meetings of student organization and clubs.
- Thompson Hall will remain open.
- Dining services in the Sunrise Room, BJ's and Einstein's will continue to operate per posted schedules, but as take-out only.
- Indoor gatherings are limited to no more than 10 people and outdoor gatherings are limited to 25 with social distancing and masks worn at all times. Seating in communal areas, including the Pool-vilion, BJ's and dining rooms, will be modified to accommodate these limits.
- The Library will remain open, subject to revised occupancy and distancing requirements.
- The Recreation Center will remain open subject to revised operating limitations consistent with the order. All in-person fitness classes, intramural activities and club sport practices will be canceled for the

remainder of the term.

- Employees approved and directed to work remotely should do so. See your supervisor or Human Resources for clarification of your status if needed.

The University will continue to closely monitor the situation and communicate any updates to the campus via email. The COVID-19 Response Team will also provide an update on our operations during Tuesday's [Virtual Town Hall](#).

COVID-19 Testing Availability

The University made prior arrangements some months ago to obtain an in-house rapid testing capability, going so far as to acquire the required assay equipment. We were recently informed by Abbott labs, however, that the State of Michigan has ordered the reallocation of most supplies of their assay chemistry to what it deems are high-priority areas and facilities. Abbott has informed us that as a result we will not receive for the foreseeable future the assay chemistry we ordered months ago. We will notify the campus via email if this situation changes.

Due to an increase in demand throughout the state, and the limits that this demand is placing on the supply of PCR test kits available to universities, our on-campus PCR-based testing through Helix must first be reserved to support our contact tracing activities and our scheduled testing of individuals suspected of having been exposed to COVID-19. There are, as a result, no open, drop-in testing dates scheduled for on-campus at this time; if this changes, the campus community will be notified by email.

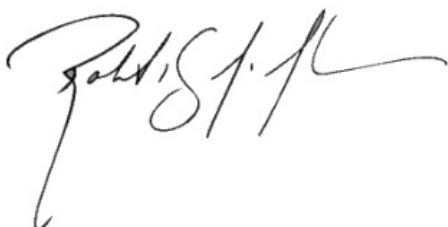
There are many locations within our community other than on-campus where students or employees can be tested, however, and many do not require a doctor's order, and/or may be obtained at no cost. Those who need to be tested before traveling for Thanksgiving are encouraged to use one of these testing centers. These can be searched at the links below:

- Testing locations in and around Flint at [Michigan.gov](#).
- Genesee County [COVID-19 page](#) for local updates, information and resources.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has offered guidance on students returning home for the holidays, you may find it at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](#).

Be well.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robt K. McMahan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Robert K. McMahan
President and Professor of Physics

